

REMARKS

Claims 1-19, 21-24, 26-27, 29-32, 34-35, 38-44, 46-52, 54-57, 59-60, 62-65, 67-68, 71-77, 79-85, 87-91, 93 and 95-101 are pending in this application after this amendment. Previously added claims 103-106 and 108 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. In light of the amendments and remarks included herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 87-91, 93, 95-101, 103-106 and 108 under 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-19, 21-24, 26-27, 29-32, 34-35, 38-44, 46-52, 54-57, 59-60, 62-65, 67-68, 71-77 and 79-85.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 85 and 95 and they are now more clearly directed to statutory subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application. For the Examiner's convenience, a marked-up version of the amendments made to the claims are set forth in Appendix A. Applicants have further canceled rejected claims 103-106 and 108. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that all of pending claims include allowable subject matter and are directed to statutory subject matter.

Based upon the amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By

Michael K. Mutter

Registration No.: 29,680

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant